



Helping students navigate from passion to profession.

Parent Involvement Counts

Although teens may act like they don't want you to be involved in their school or life, and in fact may tell you to "mind your own business," the truth is most teens crave their parent's attention but either don't realize it don't want to admit it.

MYTH: Parents of high schoolers need to be less involved so their teen can learn independence.

TRUTH: Parents need to stay involved, but in different ways, according to research. Rather than help students with homework or reading to their child, for instance, parents of teens should focus on setting consistent rules and holding high expectations of their students (with curfews, bedtimes, school grades, and school attendance, for example) and helping their teen with life skills such as planning, decision-making, finances and insurance, and civic responsibility such as voting.

MYTH: Parent involvement doesn't matter as much when kids get to high school.

TRUTH: Research shows that students have better attendance, behavior, and grades when their parents show an interest in their courses and plans for the future. When parents have high expectations for their kids and communicate them clearly to their kids, the kids are more likely to have high expectations for themselves.

Also, students try harder in school (although they may complain about it) when they know their parents are paying attention.

*GET INVOLVED BY
CONNECTING WITH
YOUR TEEN. Know your
teen's passion (music, cars,
sports, animals, whatever)
and ASK ABOUT IT.
Then LISTEN – don't
judge or criticize.*

Sources: Iowa Association of School Counselors; Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement; Harvard Family Research Project; North Central Regional Educational Laboratory; University of Chicago Chronicle; Vernal Express.



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